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HOUSE RESOLUTION 70
By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mr. Carlos Cantu upon winning the Horatio Alger Award.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body honor those citizens who through their meritorious personal and professional endeavors have proven themselves to be invaluable assets to their respective communities and to this state; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Carlos Cantu, who is one of eleven distinguished Americans receiving the 1997 Horatio Alger Award; and

WHEREAS, the Horatio Alger Award was created to recognize the achievements of individuals whose hard work, honesty and initiative helped them to overcome barriers to success; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carlos Cantu exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the oldest son of Mexican immigrants, Carlos Cantu learned at a young age that hard work, determination and self-discipline are essential for success; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Cantu borrowed money to attend Texas A&M, where he majored in Agricultural Economics while working as a custodian at a campus gym; and

WHEREAS, he began his meritorious career when prominent Memphis businessman Ned Cook gave Carlos an opportunity by offering him a job as a cotton broker at Cook & Co. at the salary of one dollar per hour; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Cantu served with acumen as a cotton broker and subsequently requested to be transferred to one of Mr. Cook's other companies, Terminix, where he rose quickly through the ranks as branch manager, regional manager, vice-president and ultimately reached the pinnacle of corporate service as president; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Terminix was sold to the ServiceMaster Corporation; Carlos Cantu was appointed chief executive officer of ServiceMaster Consumer Services Division in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Carlos Cantu was deservedly selected as the chief executive officer of ServiceMaster; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Cantu is only one of six Hispanics heading a Fortune 100 company, and is among the 75 wealthiest Hispanics in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cantu is active in numerous charitable and civic organizations, serving on the boards of Christian Brothers University, St. Francis Hospital and Free the Children; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him, Mr. Cantu still finds time to lend his considerable talents to El Valor, a Chicago-based organization dedicated to strengthening families within the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, a devout Catholic, Carlos Cantu expresses his robust faith in the Lord through membership and attendance at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Germantown, where he has served as head of the financial committee as well as being a generous financial contributor; and

WHEREAS, his countless accomplishments aside, Carlos Cantu is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his charming wife of 40 years, Gloria, and his six children, Carlos Jr., George, Albert, David, Herkey and Gloria, and 10 wonderful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, men of his talent, determination and dedication do not often walk among us, and Mr. Carlos Cantu should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. Carlos Cantu upon winning the Horatio Alger Award, and thank him for his many selfless contributions to his community and to Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.